AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7, 12-13, 16-23, 28-29, and 32-46 are pending in the instant application. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 32, 35-39, 41-42, and 44-45 to correct for minor informalities. The Applicant has cancelled the objected to claim 18, as well as the rejected claims 17, 19-23, 28-29, 40 and 46. In total, claims 8-11, 14-15, 17-31, 40, and 46 are now cancelled. New claim 47 has been added, which corresponds to the objected to claim 18. Claims 1-7, 12-13, 16, 32-39 and 41-45 have been allowed.

The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments reflected in the listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system[[,]];

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system; and

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the embedded link data comprises a data word having a reversed running disparity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the embedded link data comprises a data word having alternative coding.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the secondary communication channel comprises start and stop packet codes.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the secondary communication channel comprises start/stop symbols.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission is suspended at the end of a word within a frame.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link from the second system to the first system.

8. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications link has at least two lanes.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications link has four lanes.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising ~~the step of~~ embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link from the second system to the first system.

17. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A system providing word-level flow control, comprising:

a controller operably coupled to a full-duplex communication link[[;]], wherein said controller includes an encoder that encodes a secondary channel, and a decoder that decodes a received communication channel, wherein said secondary communications channel includes word level coding, and said system stops transmission of data without waiting for the end of a packet in response to word level commands received on said secondary communication channel.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, where the word level command is based on reversed running disparity coding.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the word level command is constructed from a series of alternatively coded words.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system[[,]];

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system;

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel, wherein the secondary communication channel is formed from groups of enhanced coded data words occurring at regular intervals in a data frame.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system[[,]];

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system;

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a

secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel, wherein the secondary communication channel is formed from individual enhanced coded data words appearing at regular intervals in a data frame

37. (Currently Amended) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system[[,]];

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system; and

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system, wherein the embedded flow control data is embedded in a said secondary communication channel using a combination of two symbols.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of providing flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-direction communications link with a remote system;

embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link for use by a primary communication channel of the communications link; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel, wherein the secondary communication channel is formed from groups of enhanced coded data words occurring at regular intervals in a data frame.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of providing flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-direction communications link with a remote system;

embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link for use by a primary communication channel of the communications link; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel, wherein

the secondary communication channel is formed from individual enhanced coded data words appearing at regular intervals in a data frame.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system[[,]];

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system;

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system[[,]];

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system;

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel, wherein the secondary communication channel comprises multiple coded symbols.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of providing word-level flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-directional communications link between a first system and a second system, wherein the bi-directional communications link conducts flow control without using a special flow control message that is not contained within normal data frames;

transmitting a frame of data from said first system to said second system; and

suspending the transmission of the frame of data without waiting for the end of the frame when the first system receives a stop transmission request embedded in a secondary communication channel between the second system and the first system.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of providing flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-direction communications link with a remote system;

embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link for use by a primary communication channel of the communications link; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of providing flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-direction communications link with a remote system;

embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link for use by a primary communication channel of the communications link; and

resuming transmission of the frame with the next word following the receipt of a start transmission code embedded in the secondary communication channel, wherein the secondary communication channel comprises multiple coded symbols.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) A method of providing flow control in a communication system, comprising:

establishing a bi-direction communications link with a remote system; and

embedding flow control data in a secondary communication channel of the communications link for use by a primary communication channel of the communications link, wherein the embedded flow control data comprises a data word having a reversed running disparity.